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witnesses in a court of law. Their ignorance of the real purpose of the boards will drive them to evasions and defiance of the law. Raising wages in certain trades will crowd the less efficient workers into other trades which are not regulated. In the trades named in the present bills piece rates are the most difficult of all to determine. In tailoring and dressmaking the complexity of detail is extreme and confusion in fixing piece rates has baffled even the Amalgamated Society of Tailors who are now demanding statutory wages boards. Finally some hold the principle to be economically unsound, believing that the only effective way will be to place the burden of taxation on the non-producer or increase the productive efficiency of the wage-earner.

IRENE OSGOOD.

**Water Storage Commission—Maine.** A state water storage commission has been created in Maine (Laws, 1909, c. 212) to secure hydrographic data so that the next "legislature may have before it a comprehensive summary of the possibilities that lie in the development of the water powers in the state as a natural resource and the necessary steps that should be taken by the state to further increase and conserve them."

The commissioners are required "to collect information relating to the water powers of the state, the flow of rivers and their drainage area, the location, nature and size of the lakes and ponds in the state and their respective value and capacity as storage reservoirs, and such other hydrographic data as they may deem of value." So far as possible the work of collecting data is to be done in conjunction with the state survey commission and with the United States geological survey. The law further provides for the collection of detailed data relating to dams, storage basins, and reservoirs. The cost of securing lands for a state forest reserve, and the reforestation of barren and denuded lands are also to be investigated by the commission.

The law carries an annual appropriation of \$5000 for a period of two years.

**Woman's Department—Bureau of Labor—Minnesota.** Minnesota has created (Laws, 1909, c. 497) a woman's and children's department in the state bureau of labor. The commissioner of labor is required to appoint "a competent woman to act as assistant commissioner" and also such women factory inspectors as "may be necessary to inspect the sanitary and general conditions" under which women and children are

employed. The assistant commissioner is required to report, for the use of the next legislature, "such findings and recommendations as will promote the health and general welfare of the women and children" employed in the state.